

**Robert Peters, et al to George Walker, March 21, 1793,  
from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited  
by Saul K. Padover.**

**Proprietors to Walker THE PROPRIETORS TO GEORGE WALKER**

*Georgetown, March 21, 1792*

*Sir*

In answer to your communication of Mr. Jefferson's letter to you of the 14th Inst., permit us to request the favor of you to inform Mr. Jefferson, as a piece of justice which seems requisite to ourselves, that we are very far from being so unreasonable as to expect that Maj. L'Enfant would be or to think that he ought to be employed on either of the conditions mentioned in his [Jefferson's] first letter to you & repeated in the second. If M. L'Enfant persists in not returning on any other, we know that all ideas on the subject must be abandoned.—but if on the contrary he should now be willing to accept such conditions as can with propriety be given we should hope that the simple circumstance of his once asking more, would not be deemed sufficient to deprive forever the City of the services of a man of acknowledged Capacity and Merit, who has already been found highly useful.

The Commissioners are respectable men and our own interest as well as a Public Duty would prompt us to give all the little aid in our

power to their efforts, which we have no doubt will be directed at least, by good intentions and zeal towards the growth of the City—But we must still lament as a very great misfortune to the object, the loss of a man deservedly (at least in point of talents, zeal, industry & total disinterestedness) possessing in a high degree the public confidence.

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The sentiments contained in this, & our former letter, are those of individuals deeply interested in the progress of the city, who do not pretend to set up a claim that additional weight should be given them from the circumstance of their coming from proprietors. A distinction we wish to be made.

We are sir Your Most Obt. Serts.

Jas. M. Lingan

John Davidson

Sam. Davidson

Overton Carr

Robert Peters

David Burnes

Abraham Young

Wm. King

W. Prout

U. Forrest

Ben Stoddert

[Elizabeth S. Kite, L'ENFANT AND WASHINGTON, pp. 175–6. Reprinted through the courtesy of the Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md.]